

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We urge you to review and update regulations that jeopardize the availability of Emergency Relief funds in the aftermath of natural disasters and catastrophic events. Specifically, we ask that you extend the initial deadline for construction obligation to ensure our states and communities that are impacted by natural disasters have adequate time to utilize such funds to repair transportation infrastructure.

Under current regulations, the Department is allowed to begin to claw back Emergency Relief funding for highway and public transit projects if those projects do not initiate construction by the end of the second fiscal year following the year in which the disaster occurred. While states can apply for extensions provided in one-year increments for delays “caused by the need for extensive environmental evaluation, litigation, or complex right-of-way acquisition,” the Department has previously denied such requests for a number of projects to repair disaster damage.

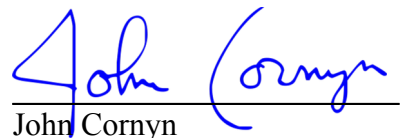
As Americans grapple with severe natural disasters and extreme weather, we believe that states and communities also need practical requirements to ensure that they have a reasonable period of time to carry out significant and often complex projects necessary to repair or reconstruct transportation assets after a disaster occurs. As such, we ask that you update Emergency Relief program regulations to extend the construction start deadline to the end of the fourth fiscal year following the year in which the disaster occurred for permanent repair projects.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build more resilient infrastructure and help communities recover from disasters.

Sincerely,



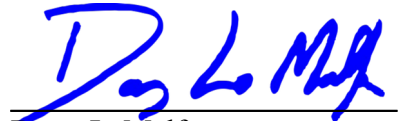
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



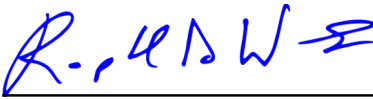
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



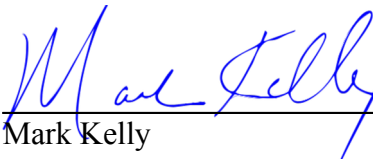
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator




Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



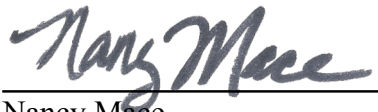
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



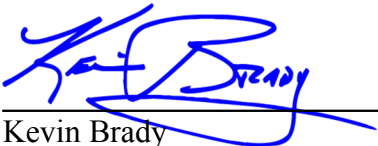
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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



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Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



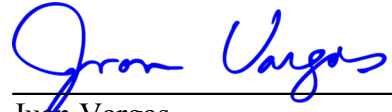
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



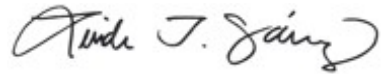
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



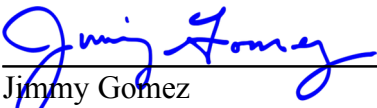
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



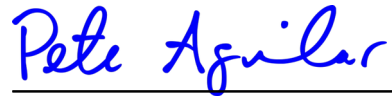
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



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Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Nuria Fernandez, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration  
The Honorable Stephanie Pollack, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration